

Library Council
January 15, 2014
Minutes

Attendees: Deborah Jakubs, Lisa Huettel, Tom Hadzor, Ann Elsner, Bob Byrd, Pablo Beramendi, Bob Behringer, Tom Witelski, Phil Stern, Peter Huff, David Boyd, Rick Hoyle, Jehanne Gheith, Charlotte Clark, Gil Merkx, Daniel Schmitt, Lynne Grossman, recorder

1. Announcements/Introductions

- Today is Molly Tamarkin's last day at Duke University Libraries; she is moving to Saudi Arabia to become university librarian at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). Molly will be greatly missed and has made significant contributions as AUL for Information Technology and Technical Services in the past four years here.

2. Library Presentation to Board of Trustees: Deborah Jakubs

- This was the first time that a University Librarian has ever addressed the entire Board. Deborah organized her presentation around the Crazy Smart ads featured in the Duke Magazine, which are very witty and present an update on the Libraries, the unit on campus which has changed the most in the past decade. While 20 years ago, the Library was a passive place and data base searching was in its infancy, we are now a collection of collaborators, experts and a catalyst for creation of new scholarship. Innovative renovations have made the Libraries more inviting and in 2015, the Rubenstein Library will be completely renovated. We are always adapting services and being attentive to how spaces are used.
- Regarding the undergraduate experience, we believe in getting them early and are involved in FOCUS 101 programs. Deborah sends a letter to all first year students' parents to let them know how their students are being supported: residence hall librarians; research awards for best senior honors thesis; chat reference; hosting a book collectors contest. Last year, our winner was the winner of the national book collectors contest. Quoted from a Duke senior, "The library is where I go when I want to get serious."
- As a research center, the Libraries' rich collections attract faculty and visiting scholars from all over the world. We collect film, audio and video as well as photography and documents.
- Our library at Duke Kunshan University is an example of Duke's Global Mission.
- In support of technological innovation, the Libraries are involved with MOOCs, DukeSpace, and the Digital Production Center. We just hired a research computing specialist and we host three on-line journals. Also, we are leaders on a national level through Kuali OLE and are project partners with IBM. Other partnerships include the BorderWorks Lab, Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing, Office of Information Technology through The Link, Alumni portal for electronic resources, and Duke Athletics through which we receive \$1 for every ticket sold.
- Challenges for the Libraries include the hybrid nature of our collections; rising cost of electronic resources, digital storage, and budget inflexibility in terms of discretionary projects,

- Fundraising is ahead of last year at this time. We have 2000 donors out of 150,000 alumni and we have achieved 80% of our Duke Forward goal.
- At the Board presentation, David Rubenstein posed the question: If you were a reporter for “US News & World Report” and were doing a story on the best libraries in North America, which ones would be at the top of that list and why? Deborah replied that the old measures of counting volumes and budgets are not very good indicators of service and user satisfaction. A number of institutions look to us as a model for starting new things. In terms of collections, there is a focus on comparing libraries to businesses and return on investment; however, we should really be compared to cultural institutions like symphonies which cannot be measured in those business terms. The number of research libraries that continue to collect broadly is shrinking. There are institutions with stronger staffs for processing and cataloguing materials in different languages. Columbia and UVA have more robust programs in digital management. If our Libraries’ budget were doubled, we would go add strength in digital scholarship; in Rubenstein processing of materials and acquisition and preservation of distinctive collections; and renovating the Duke Marine Lab and Lilly Library. Faculty value well-organized databases and building collections in particular areas to help shape scholarship, recruit graduate students, and attract and retain faculty.

3. Research Commons Planning Update: Bob Byrd

- In 2012, we did a study on the possibility of creating a research commons to bring together digital scholarship, data/GIS, and to provide space for projects and teamwork like Bass Connections. We settled on first floor Bostock as the best location and based on conversations with students and faculty involved in the planning, the architects determined a cost estimate of \$4-6 million. Through the generosity of some of our LAB members, we received commitments of \$2.5 million and the architects revised their plans accordingly. Some of the changes included eliminating angles and moving most of the spaces to the exteriors so we do not have to change mechanicals and lighting systems. We preserved nine project rooms of different sizes and decided to make one larger workshop rather than three. A digital spaces sandbox area was created where students could experiment with different tools. Not as many work stations will be needed for Library staff since they will be out and about interacting with users, working with teams and giving workshops. We will have a program manager for the space and graduate student interns who will work with users. What has changed most is social space: we wanted to create a space where people from different teams would connect like at a water cooler. Other institutions say if you want it to serve as a research area, programming is key: have workshops and opportunities for people to present their research.
- Library Council members liked the coffee house idea with book shelves, current magazines, snacks, drinks, and an interdisciplinary seminar series in the social space.
- We hope to have plans complete in the next month and everything must be finalized by May, when construction will start.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Grossman, Recorder